

Amendments In the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 13, 16, 19, 24, 27, 29, 30, 33 and 35 as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for transporting information over a network comprising:
decomposing an input datastream into a plurality of sub-streams, wherein
said decomposing comprises placing a selected portion of the input
datastream into a selected one of a plurality of channels, and
a sub-stream of said sub-streams comprises the selected portion of the
input datastream; and
communicating said sub-streams between a first network element and a second
network element of said network by transporting each one of said sub-
streams over a corresponding one of a plurality of channels, wherein
a **transmission rate bandwidth** of said input datastream is greater than a
maximum transmission rate bandwidth-capacity of any one of
said channels.
2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein
each of said channels is an optical channel.
3. **(Original)** The method of claim 2, wherein
each of said optical channels corresponds to a wavelength.
4. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein
said each one of said sub-streams has a **transmission rate bandwidth** that is
equal to or less than a **maximum transmission rate bandwidth-capacity**
of a corresponding one of said channels.
5. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, further comprising:
assembling said sub-streams into a reconstructed output datastream.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein said assembling comprises:
placing a portion of each of said substreams in a queue, wherein said reconstructed output datastream is output by said queue.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
performing protocol processing on said input datastream; and
performing protocol processing on said reconstructed output datastream, wherein said protocol processing is performed using a protocol processor comprising a protocol stack.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
performing compression on a one of said sub-streams, wherein
said one of said sub-streams has a transmission rate bandwidth greater than a maximum transmission rate bandwidth-capacity of the corresponding selected one of said channels.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said network is an existing network.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein
said network comprises an underlying network infrastructure, and
the method is performed without alteration of said underlying network infrastructure.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said network comprises a fiber-optic system.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said decomposition comprises:
placing the portion of said input datastream in one of a plurality of queues,
wherein
the queue corresponds to the selected one of said channels.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A method for receiving information transported over a network comprising:
- receiving a plurality of sub-streams, wherein
 - said sub-streams are created by decomposing an input datastream into said sub-streams, wherein
 - said decomposing comprises placing a selected portion of the input datastream into a selected one of a plurality of channels,
 - and
 - a sub-stream of said substreams comprises the selected portion of the input datastream,
 - each of said sub-streams is transported over said network on the selected one of the plurality of channels, and
 - a **transmission rate bandwidth** of said input datastream is greater than a **maximum transmission rate bandwidth-capacity** of any one of said channels; and
- assembling said sub-streams into a reconstructed output datastream.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein each of said channels is an optical channel.
15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein each of said optical channels corresponds to a wavelength.
16. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 13, wherein said each one of said sub-streams has a **transmission rate bandwidth** that is equal to or less than a **maximum transmission rate bandwidth-capacity** of said corresponding one of said channels.
17. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said assembling comprises: placing a portion of each of said substreams in a queue, wherein said reconstructed datastream is output by said queue.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising:
decomposing said input datastream into said sub-streams; and
transporting said each of said sub-streams over said network on said
corresponding one of a plurality of channels.
19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising:
performing protocol processing on said input datastream; and
performing protocol processing on said reconstructed output datastream, wherein
said protocol processing is performed using a protocol processor
comprising a protocol stack.
20. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said network is an existing
network.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein
said network comprises an underlying network infrastructure, and
the method is performed without alteration of said underlying network
infrastructure.
22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said network comprises a
fiber-optic system.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said
decomposition comprises:
placing the selected portion of said input datastream in one of a plurality of
queues, wherein
each of said queues corresponds to a one of said plurality of channels.
24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for transporting information over a
network comprising:
a first sub-stream management device, comprising
an input configured to receive an input datastream, and
a plurality of outputs, wherein

each of said outputs is configured to output one of a plurality of sub-streams, wherein the input datastream is decomposed to form the plurality of sub-streams, wherein said decomposing comprises placing a selected portion of the input datastream into a selected one of the plurality of outputs, and a sub-stream of said sub-streams comprises the selected portion of the input datastream, each of said sub-streams is transported over said network on a corresponding one of a plurality of channels, and a transmission rate bandwidth of said input datastream is greater than a maximum transmission rate bandwidth-capacity of any one of said channels.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein each of said channels is an optical channel.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein each of said optical channels corresponds to a wavelength.

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said each one of said sub-streams has a transmission rate bandwidth that is equal to or less than a maximum transmission rate bandwidth-capacity of said corresponding one of said channels.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising a second sub-stream management device, comprising an output configured to output a reconstructed output datastream, and a plurality of inputs, wherein each of said inputs is configured to receive one of said sub-streams; and

an underlying network infrastructure, communicatively coupled to said first and said second sub-stream management devices, and comprising said channels.

29. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising a first protocol processor, coupled to said input; ~~and~~ a second protocol processor, coupled to said output; and wherein,

the first and second protocol processors each comprise a protocol stack.

30. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus for transporting information over a network comprising:

a first sub-stream management device, comprising
an output configured to output a reconstructed output datastream, and
a plurality of inputs, wherein
each of said inputs is configured to receive one of a plurality of sub-streams,
said sub-streams are created by decomposing an input datastream into said sub-streams, wherein
said decomposing comprises placing a selected portion of the input datastream into a selected one of a plurality of channels, and
a sub-stream of said sub-streams comprises the selected portion of the input datastream,
each of said sub-streams is transported over said network on the selected one of the plurality of channels, and
a transmission rate bandwidth of said input datastream is greater than a maximum transmission rate bandwidth capacity of any one of said channels.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein each of said channels is an optical channel.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein each of said optical channels corresponds to a wavelength.

33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said each one of said sub-streams has a transmission rate bandwidth that is equal to or less than a maximum transmission rate bandwidth capacity of said corresponding one of said channels.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising a second sub-stream management device, comprising
an input configured to receive said input datastream, and
a plurality of outputs, wherein
each of said outputs is configured to output one of said sub-streams; and
an underlying network infrastructure, communicatively coupled to said first and said second sub-stream management devices, and comprising said channels.

35. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising a first protocol processor, coupled to said input; ~~and~~
a second protocol processor, coupled to said output; and
wherein,
the first and second protocol processors each comprise a protocol stack.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein selecting the selected one of a plurality of channels comprises:
using a simple round-robin technique to choose an available one of the plurality of channels.

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 24 wherein selecting the selected one of the plurality of outputs comprises:
using a simple round-robin technique to choose an available one of the plurality of outputs.